



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Bernard BELLEAU et al. :

Serial No. 09/760,380 :

Filed : January 16, 2001 :

For : PROCESS FOR PREPARING SUBSTITUTED 1,3-OXATHIOLANES WITH
ANTIVIRAL PROPERTIES

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims:

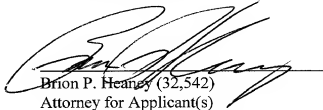
Please cancel claims 4, 8, 13, 15, 21 and 26-34.

19. (Amended) The process according to claim 10, wherein the mercaptoacetaldehyde is obtained from a mercaptoacetaldehyde dimer dissolved in an inert solvent.

REMARKS

Claims 4, 8, 13, 15, 21 and 26-34 are canceled and claim 19 is amended to eliminate the multiple dependencies and to eliminate the additional claim fee.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 4, 8, 13, 15, 21 and 26-34.

19. (Amended) The process according to claim 10, ~~11 or 12~~, wherein the mercaptoacetaldehyde is obtained from a mercaptoacetaldehyde dimer dissolved in an inert solvent.